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The Proceedings of the Grand-Jury at LAUNTON in the County of Somerset, April 1. 1682.

Together with

A Copy of an Address of the Mayor, Masters and Burgesses of the City and Borough of Wells, to his Highness Richard Lord Protector of England, &c.

To the King's most Excellent MAJESTY.

The humble Address of the Mayor, Masters and Common-Council of the City and Borough of *Wells*, in the County of *Somerset*; And of the Loyal Inhabitants of the same City, and of the Liberty of St. *Andrews Wells*.

WE Your Majesties most Loyal and Obedient Subjects, having with all joy, and gladness of heart, read, and heard of the unanimous Addresses which most Cities and considerable Towns within this Your Majesties Kingdom, have humbly presented to Your Majesty for Your most Gracious Declaration; And reflecting seriously upon that Divine Saying of Your Majesties Royal Father, the Glorious Martyr, King Charles I. That Religion to God, and Loyalty to the King, cannot be parted, without both our Sin and Felicity: *Do with hearts full of duty to Your Majesty, and zeal for the Established Religion, and that Government which can only protect it; lay our selves at Your Royal Feet, with all humble Thankfulness, acknowledging Your Majesties Great Goodness, and Condescention expressed in that Declaration for the Preservation of the Protestant Religion as by Law Established; and of Your Majesties resolution of calling frequent Parliaments, and Governing according to Law; and Your Gracious Promise never to Invade the Liberties of Your Subjects, nor to permit others so to do; and of Your further Resolution to continue to us all those Blessings which we have hitherto enjoyed under Your most happy Government; and we do promise, That as we shall with all duty obey Your Majesties Commands; so we shall be ready with our Lives and Fortunes to defend and support Your Crown and Dignity, against the Attempts and Designs of all persons and Parties whatsoever.*

3°. *Januarii ulto.* A Common Council was held for the said City, in order to this Address, at which only 14 of the House met. (*viz.*) Mr. *Hodges Cook*, then Mayor; Mr. *Rich. Thomas*, then Justice; Mr. *Davidge*, since dead; Mr *Neblet*, Mr. *Salmon*, Mr. *Hole*, Mr. *Charles Baron*; all Masters.

Of the Common-Council, Mr. *Robert Bradbeard*, Mr. *Richard Capper*, Mr. *Edw. Watts*, Mr. *Rob. Twoway*, Mr. *Hugh Merrefield*, Mr. *Cornelius Yeal*, and Mr. *Nicholas Palmer*.

The Question being put, *Whether an Address should be sent, or no?* Thirteen (without which number there can be no House to order any thing, it being the majority of 22 that the Corporation should consist of) voted for it, and only Mr. *Salmon* against it; And so this Order was recorded.

It is this day ordered, That an Address be forthwith presented to His Majesty, to give Him the humble Thanks of this Corporation for His late Gracious Declaration; And that Mr. Recorder or the Lord Bishop be desired to present it.

The form of the Address was agreed to, and 15 or 16 of the Corporation set their Hands to it; for some of them set their hands to it afterwards, being not present at the Council; And after most of the Loyal Inhabitants of the City and Liberty set their hands to it.

The Address so subscribed was delivered to the then Mayor, by the Town-Clerk, who got the Subscriptions.

Whereas 'tis reported, That this Address was stifled, because some persons had crost out their Names: These are to satisfie the world, That before any person had crost his Name, *Hodge Cook* (the then Mayor) did declare that the Address should not be sent up, without the Corporation would save him harmless. The Truth of which will be attested by 5 of those Loyal persons who subscribed it.

A Copy of an Address sent from the Mayor, Masters and Burgesses of the City and Borough of *Wells*

To His Highness *Richard* Lord Protector of *England, Scotland* and *Ireland*.

WE are very sensible of the great loss of his late Highness your Supreme Renowned Father, who was the Buckler of these Nations; We cannot sufficiently deplore the

Loss

Loſs of ſo Glorious an Inſtrument, (our Sins have cauſed this loſs) but the Almighty God, the great Diſpoſer of all things, having called him to himſelf, we do (as we ought) ſubmit to his pleaſure; And, taking ſeriouſly into conſideration the manifold Bleſſings of that great God, towards us, and this Nation, in this change; do magnifie his Great Name, in that he hath given your Highneſs the Rule over us; from whom we cannot in the leaſt ways doubt but to have our Religion, Juſtice, Laws and Liberties maintained, being well aſſured of your Highneſs's zeal to them all: We are not fit to bear the name of Chriſtians, ſhould we not acknowledge this ſuperlative Mercy. Many turbulent Spirits ('tis to be feared) Plot and Contrive againſt your Perſon and Government, to involve this Nation in War and Blood. You are our Great Maſter, undoubtedly your great care muſt tranſcend to diſcover them, and Govern us in Peace. We know your burden to be great; In all reaſon it ſhould be anſwered with aſſurance of the Duty which we owe your Highneſs, which we ſhall moſt readily manifeſt. We ſtand aſſured that no danger ſhall impede your Protection and Progreſs, and therefore we do moſt humbly declare to your Highneſs and the world, That by the aſſiſtance of the Almighty, we ſhall perform our Duty (in our reſpective Spheres) to your Highneſs's Service, and ſhall think neither our Lives nor Fortunes too precious to be ſpent therein, but will truly offer our All, and will reſolvedly adhere to your Highneſs.

Sign'd, William Whiting, *Mayor.*
Thomas White, *Recorder.*
William Smith, *Juſtice.*
Thomas Mead.
Thomas Salmon, *Father of* Wil. Salmon, *who was the only man againſt the latter* Addreſs *intended to have been preſented to His Majeſty.*
Richard Casbeard.
Joſeph Gallington.
Stephen Haſcot, *only living, now at* Briſtol.
William Baron, *reputed Father of* Ch. Baron, *Mayor at this time.*
John Standiſh, *Town-Clerk.*

To the King's moſt Excellent MAJESTY.

The humble Addreſs of the Grand-Jury at the Aſſizes for the County of *Somerſet*, held at *Taunton*, the 1ſt. day of *April*, in the 34th. year of His Majeſties Reign.

YOUR moſt Sacred Majeſty having been graciouſly pleaſed to accept the humble Addreſs of the Juſtices, Grand-Jury, and other Gentlemen of this County, who were preſent at the Seſſions held at Brewtown, *in* January *laſt, ereas, in us, who are now called hither upon a more publick Account, at the Aſſizes, the greater confidence ſolemnly to declare our utter Deteſtation of all* Aſſociations *which ſhall be entred into without Your Majeſty's Authority; And in particular that which was found in the Earl of* Shaftsbury's *Cloſet; a Contrivance ſo framed, that it out-does all former models of Rebellion, the* Solemn League and Covenant *not excepted, the dire effects of which Your Majeſties Loyal Subjects laboured under; And no leſs could have been expected, had not the Providence of Almighty God interpoſed, in the detecting this Deſign, then the utter ſubverſion of the Eſtabliſhed Religion, and the Government of Church and State. For the defence of which, together with Your Majeſty's Perſon, and the Succeſſion of the Crown in its Regular Courſe of Deſcent, we ſhall be ready to ſacrifice our Lives and Fortunes. And we cannot but bleſs God for the happy ſucceſs of Your Majeſty's Affairs in Your Kingdom of* Scotland, *under the Conduct of His Royal Highneſs the D. of* York, *whoſe ſubmiſſive readineſs to execute Your Majeſty's juſt Commands, will (we hope) have an exemplary Influence upon all Your Subjects, that ſo their Duty may be rewarded with the Bleſſings of Your Gavernment; And Your Majeſty continue to be happy in their Obedience.*

The Preſentment of the Grand-Jury at the Aſſizes for the County of *Somerſet*, held at *Taunton*, the 1ſt. day of *April* in the 34th. year of His Majeſty's Reign, 1682.

1ſt. *That there are divers* Non-Conformiſt Preachers, *ſome of which, (in particular* W. *and* H.) *were Incendiaries of Rebellion in this County, during the late Wars, who being diſturbed by the Loyal Magiſtrates of* Briſtol, *do now hold* Field-Conventicles, *and other* Seditious Meerings, *in the borders of this County: We therefore humbly deſire, that Charge may be given, that the Juſtices of the Peace, and other Officers in that part of the County, may be diligent in proceeding againſt them, according to Law. And that the ſame may be done in all parts of the County, and all Corporations, that ſo* Sedition *may be no longer promoted under colour of* Religion; *and His* Majeſty Diſ-ſerved, *under pretence of* Serving of God.

Item, *We preſent, That there are frequent* Conventicles *kept in* Bridgewater *and* Taunton; *in the later of which there is a large Building called* Pauls, *erected for the keeping of their* Unlawful Meerings, *which hath been often preſented as a* Nuiſance, *not only to that Town, but to the whole Countrey: We humbly propoſe, that it may be imployed to ſome Publick, and better Uſe.*

Laſtly, we crave leave to lay before your Lordſhip, That an Humble Addreſs of Thanks to His moſt Sacred Majeſty for his Gracious Declaration, was the laſt Summer drawn up, and ſigned by the then Mayor, moſt of the Maſters and Common-Council, the Gentlemen, and Principal Inhabitants of the City of Wells; *which Addreſs was afterward ſuppreſt, and not preſented to His Majeſty, not only to the great Scandal and Reproach of many Loyal perſons of that City, but to the prejudice of His Majeſty's Service in this County: We therefore pray your Lordſhip, That the Cauſes of ſuppreſſing that Humble Addreſs may be enquired into, that ſo thoſe who are truly Loyal, may not lie under the cenſure of being negligent in their Duty.*